

SPECIFICATION

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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Please amend the specification as indicated below.

On page 4, amend the first 8 lines as follows:

46, 48, 50, 52, each of which tapers from a larger entry hole 38a, 40a, 42a, 44a, 46a, 48a, 50a, 52a, to a smaller exit hole. ~~38b, 40b, 42b, 44b, 46b, 48b, 50b, 52b~~

At the body top 34, each slot is beveled at 18°, 20°, 22°, 24°, 26°, 28°, 30°, 32°. ~~Pairs of slots 54, 56 and 58, 60~~ A pair of slots 56, 60 are formed adjacent each end of body 12. In addition, an adhesive strip can be mounted on bottom of base 14 at 66, 67 adjacent each end. Preparatory to surgery, several of the suture holders are attached to a surgical drape surrounding the surgical site by clamps which act through slot pairs 54, 56 and 58, 60 and/or by the adhesive strips.

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 as follows:

To aid the surgeon in identifying sutures, identifying indicia, shown here as dots 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, are placed on the surface 16 adjacent each bore near base 14. These indicia can be color coded, such as the colored coloring the dots shown here, or alpha-numeric, comprising numbers or letters, which can be color-coded, or combinations of each.

On page 5, amend the last paragraph as follows:

Another embodiment of this invention is shown in Figs. 6 – 10. Here, a clamp and/or suture retainer and organizer device 120—A has a thin, elongated, flexible base 122 which mounts a plurality (here, 7 are shown) of egg-shaped pods 124, denominated on base 122 by embossed letters, a – h. Each pod 124 has a vertical through slit 126, which opens into a tapered pocket 128 for receiving the nose of a hemostat 130, as shown in Fig. 10. Each pod 124 includes a recess 132, which is adjacent to and opens into the slit 126. Recess 132 guides the nose of hemostat 130 as it slides suture 134 into slit 126. Pockets 128 closely grip and retain the nose of hemostat

130, but prevent it from being pulled through. ~~Ends 136~~ The ends of base 122 provide a surface for enabling a hemostat to clamp device 120 onto a surgical drape, in the